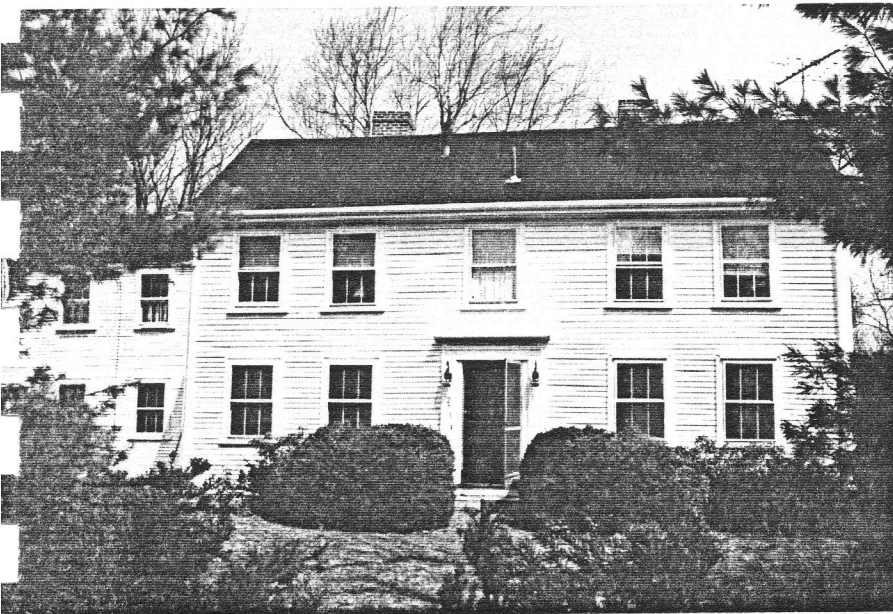


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	586



n Lexington

ress 271 Marrett Road

toric Name Matthew Bridge House

: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

e between c. 1668 and c. 1740

town records research,

Source stylistic analysis

*Georgian*

Style Second Period/Federal

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 33710 ft.<sup>2</sup>

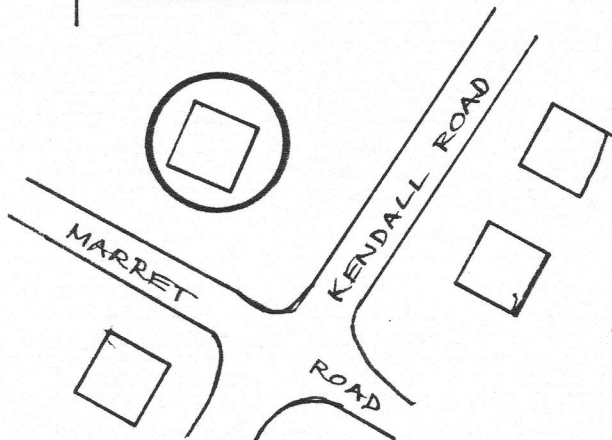
Setting In residential area on state

highway; amid houses of primarily early

twentieth-century construction date.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

Local tradition states that part of this house dates from before 1668. Certainly the owners had a house on this property by that date (see Historical Significance below). Currently the house exhibits both Second Period and Federal features, and no definitive evidence of seventeenth century construction has been uncovered. (Because of the importance of the Bridge family in Lexington, this house is an excellent candidate for an Historic Structures report which might clarify its original construction date.)

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

This property is significant for its association with the Bridge family, one of Lexington's foremost seventeenth and eighteenth century families. By 1643 the site was owned by John Bridge. Bridge (d. 1665), a prominent citizen of Cambridge, was one of the original proprietors of Lexington, then known as "Cambridge Farms." Bridge, who served as selectman in Cambridge for 12 years and was Representative to the General Court for four years, was a large landowner in several parts of the colony. His statue stands on Cambridge Common.

Although John Bridge never lived here, his son, Matthew (b. 1615, d. 1700), settled here probably by the early 1660s. He enhanced and extended his father's holdings. Matthew, Cambridge records make clear, had a house here by 1668 when he received permission "to cut timber to repair his house at the Farms" (Worthen to Heywood, 1937). Matthew was one of the wealthiest early residents of Lexington and his farm of approximately 600 acres extended from Lincoln Street beyond 271 Marrett Road to the east.

Matthew's son, Matthew (b. 1650, d. 1738), inherited the property. Matthew, Jr. had fought in King Philip's War, was active in obtaining permission for the Farms to become a separate parish in 1691 and a separate town in 1713. He became the first selectman after the incorporation of the town and served at the same time as Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Assessor.

Matthew Bridge, Jr. had before his death provided each of his four sons with a house and 100 acres of farmland. Joseph received the house built c. 1722

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 53-60. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Kelley, Beverly Allison. Lexington, A Century of Photographs, p. 13. Boston: Lexington Historical Society, 1980.

Letter from Edwin B. Worthen to Mrs. Sidney B. Heywood, April 9, 1937. Worthen Collection, Cary Memorial Library, Lexington, Massachusetts.

Notes made by Roland Gabisch. Lexington Historical Commission files.

Scigliano, Anne R. "The Old House -- Memorial to the Past." Lexington Minute Man, October 16, 1969.

Worthen, Edwin B., Jr. "The Bridge Family and Lexington." Written for the use of the Lexington School Committee, 1964. Worthen Collection, Cary Memorial Library, Lexington, Massachusetts.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 586
Property Name: 271 Marrett Road	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The oldest part of the house is apparently the ell, to the left. Here the clapboards have a narrower weather than on the rest of the house. The interior of this part was restored in the 1920s and the current fireplace there was built then.

The next portion of the house to have been built is the five-bay-wide, one-room-deep section which stands closer to the street than the original ell. Evidence suggests that this part was built in the Second period. Beaded beams are seen in a closet and in one bedroom, and there is nogging in the walls. SPNEA is said to have uncovered evidence in the 1960s that this part originally had a central chimney and that the chimney was replaced during the Federal period with rear chimneys. The house received a thorough remodeling in the Federal period. A through-stairhall with straight run stairs was put in, new mantels installed, and floors stenciled.

In the 1970s a two-story addition with low pitch roof was built across the rear of the house to accommodate a restaurant. At one time there was a porch across the front. It has now been removed.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

now standing at 419 Marrett Road; John received the property centering on 170-172 Middleby Road (whether the original house of c. 1730 is incorporated into the present structure is uncertain); Matthew received property on Trapelo Road in Waltham (the house is no longer standing); and Samuel received the homestead at 271 Marrett Road.

Samuel Bridge (b. 1705, d. 1791) served as selectman from 1758 to 1760 and helped to draft instructions for the town's representative in the years before the Revolution. During the Revolution Samuel Bridge served in campaigns in New Jersey, Bennington, Vermont, and Cambridge even though he was 70 years of age when the war started.

The property descended in the Bridge family until sold in 1847 to Jonas C. Wellington. Wellington sold in 1854 to Robert and Morris Copeland who were landscape gardeners. The property passed in 1860 to Bradley Clarke, and in 1872 to the Osborne family. Next owner was Francis Kendall who operated a farm here. In the early 1900s Harry Kelsey owned it. In 1917 Neil McIntosh acquired the property and began to divide up the land. "He set up a corporation, took in shareholders, and developed the area into the present house lots" (Scigliano 1969).

In the 1920s the house served as the Proving Kitchen for recipes printed in Priscilla magazine and the house itself was featured in many issues in articles written by Della T. Lutes.

In the late 1920s the house became a highly successful restaurant called "The Old House," operated by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Heywood. In 1966 the house was acquired by Dr. and Mrs. David Smith who restored it.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Staple to Inventory form at bottom